

# Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stuke



*Black-throated Blue Warbler*

## Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

Dawn Komaskinski

**September Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT Daily**

**[www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)**

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

## Friday, August 29

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** Visit the Nature Center to find out how you can earn special patches (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet everyday for an hour to get you started or help you along. DK

**5:30pm Campground Craft Fun!** Send the kids over while setting up camp for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! BB

## Saturday, August 30

**10am Wetland Stroll.** Explore the wetlands with the naturalist this morning. We'll explore the life that occurs in this special place! Meet at the Nature Center for an easy 45-minute walk. DK

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, August 29, for details. DK

**3pm Snakes Alive!** Meet some of the resident snakes up close during this 45 minute program at the Nature Center. Great program, even if you're uncomfortable around these fascinating reptiles! Join us! BB

**7:00pm Campfire Tonight!** Join the naturalist for an evening of stories, games, and song. Prizes for the little ones, and general fun for everyone! Meet at the Campground Shelter (near site 116). Kids, please bring a parent if you are under 12. Bring marshmallows for roasting over the fire afterwards. Join us! BB

## Sunday, August 31

**10am Hike to Mt. Tom and Beyond!** Strap on the hiking boots for a refreshing stroll to Mt. Tom, the tallest dune in Indiana, followed by a stroll into the cool dune coves. Meet at the Campground Shelter for this hour or so hike. BB

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, August 29, for details. DK

**3pm Sassafras Beads!** Join us for an afternoon hour of fun in the Nature Center. Learn the art of sassafras beadwork to make your own bracelet to take home with you! Great family fun! DK

**7:30pm Spider Sniffing!** What creatures haunt the dune woodlands at night!? Join us at the Campground Gate for a look at the animals of the night and the senses they need to survive. Children under 12, please bring a parent! DK



## Monday, September 1, Labor Day!

**9am Labor Day Morning Meander.** Meet the naturalist at the Campground Gate for a backwoods search for some morning birds out and about. Bring binoculars if you have some, or borrow a pair of ours. We'll be out for about an hour. BB

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get close up encounters with hummingbirds, cardinals, and chickadees. DK

**3pm Geocaching Jaunt!** Meet the naturalist at the front of the Nature Center for a fun scavenger hunt, with a techno twist! Learn about GPS units and geocaching in this fun, one hour program. Prizes for the kids! BB

## Friday, September 5

**5:30pm Campground Craft Fun!** Send the kids over while setting up camp for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! DK

## Saturday, September 6

### **History Comes Alive Weekend!**

*Join us for special activities all weekend!*

**9am-8pm Voyageurs Encampment.** Be sure to visit the Ouiatenon Brigade on the beach east of the pavilion as they re-enact the fur-trading era.

**10am INShape Walk-** Join us at the Pavilion for a 2-mile fitness walk along the beach, one of more than 20 happening simultaneously around the state. Free park passes for the DNR INShape Day are available at [www.in.gov/INShape](http://www.in.gov/INShape).

**11am Fur Trading Trek!** Meet the Naturalist at the Campground Shelter for a trek through the dunes, and a meeting with the early French fur traders that inhabited this area nearly 200 years ago! Bring your beaver pelt, or borrow a pair of ours! BB

**11am-3pm Native American Foods!** Make your way to the Nature Center for a look at the early Native American way of life. Special re-enactors will show off foods made, and have special crafts you can make. Come on by!

**7pm Native American Flute Music!** Bring a blanket or lawnchair to the Beach Pavilion for an evening of songs by the waves. Special musician Mike Mycroft has produced CDs and is always an enjoyable show. Total time about 45 minutes. BB

## Sunday, September 7

**9am-3pm Voyageurs Encampment.** Be sure to visit the Ouiatenon Brigade on the beach east of the pavilion as they re-enact the fur-trading era.

**10am Voyager's Hike.** Meet the Naturalist at the Campground Shelter for a trek through the dunes, and a meeting with the early French fur traders that inhabited this area nearly 200 years ago. BB

**2pm Shipwreck!** Gather in the Nature Auditorium for a short video and program on the shipwrecks of Indiana Dunes. Afterwards we'll walk outside and see some relics from these massive ships, and offer a car pool to the Beach to see where some shipwrecks are! BB

## Thursday, September 11

**10am The Care and Feeding of an Indiana State Park.** Join the Naturalist at the Nature Center for this special Coast Week hike, looking at what it takes to raise a great Indiana State Park! We'll be out for about an hour. BB

## Friday, September 12

**7pm Birds of the Indiana Dunes.** Join us in the Nature Center Auditorium for this very special presentation by state renowned birder and author Ken Brock. Ken will explore the amazing bird diversity found in the Indiana Dunes and where to go to find them! Seating first come, first serve. Join us!

## Saturday, September 13

**9am Fall Birds of the Dune Forest.** A follow up to last night's program. Join us for a morning search of the fall warblers, vireos, and flycatchers moving through the dunes. Meet at the Nature Center for this hour or so stroll. BB

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, August 29, for details. BB

**2pm Dune Jeopardy!** Test your Dune trivia knowledge in the Nature Center Auditorium. Prizes for those that know their stuff. DG

**7:00pm Coyote Calling!** Venture into the dune woodlands in the dark, as we explore the canines of the dunes. Meet at the Campground Gate. Kids under 12, please bring a parent. Flashlight recommended for the walk back to the campsite afterwards. Join us, it's sure to be a howling good time! DG

## Sunday, September 14

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get close up encounters with hummingbirds, cardinals, and chickadees. DG

**2pm Critter Feeding Time.** Flock to the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun time as we feed the Nature Center frogs, turtles, and snakes. Come watch them eat or maybe even help out! Great family program! DG

## Friday, September 19

**5:30pm Campground Craft Fun!** Send the kids over while setting up camp for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! DG

## Saturday, September 20

**6am-11pm Bird Tower Birdathon!** Today is our big Birdathon "Big Sit" to help with the construction of our new bird observation tower in the park! All day birders will be recording every species of bird seen from the high dune next to the West Parking Lot (where trail 3 starts). The public is welcome to help in the cause by visiting with birders from all over the state, or by pledging money for each species we find today! In case of inclement weather we will retry on Sunday. Join us anytime today!

**10am A Dam Hike!** Explore the resident beavers of the dunes this morning. Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for an hour stroll in search of the giant beaver lodge in the park! Arrive early, this hike is always popular! DG

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, August 29, for details. BB

**2pm Winged Migration.** Fly with the birds! Come flock to the Nature Center for this amazing 90 minute documentary on bird migration. It won the Academy Award for best documentary a few years ago. Seating first come, first serve.

## Sunday, September 21.

**9:30am Breakfast with the Birds.** Join us for our monthly birds and breakfast. We meet every month in the Nature Center bird observation room for a short discussion, and then head off on the trail in search of the morning's birds. Join us! BB

**2pm Cactus Café!** Find your way to the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the real native cactus of the dunes... the prickly pear! We'll look at what makes it so special, and even try some food dishes that can be made from this very unique dune treat! Bring your appetite and join us! BB

## Friday, September 26

**10am The Singing Sands!** Blow your way into the Nature Center Auditorium as we look at the sands of the dunes! Learn why we are called the singing sands and get some close up looks at sands from other beaches in the world! Fascinating fun!

## Saturday, September 27

**Welcome Geocachers to the Indiana State Park's Cacher's Campout all weekend!**

**10am Early Fall Swamp Safari!** Join Dawn for a morning exploration of the dune swamps. Meet at the Nature Center as we suit up with dip nets and bowls and hike to the wetland edge to explore the plants and animals that call this place home. We'll be out for about an hour. Great family fun! DK

**1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program.** See Friday, August 29, for details. DK

**3pm Geocaching Jaunt.** Join us for a scavenger hunt with a techno-twist! Meet at the Nature Center and learn about the new hobby of geocaching, and try your hand at finding one for yourself. Prizes for the kids! Join us! BB

## Sunday, September 30

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get close up encounters with hummingbirds, cardinals, and chickadees. BB

**2pm Turtle Time!** Scoot on over to the Nature Center Auditorium for a fascinating look at this neat group of reptiles. Afterwards, we'll gather around in a circle to watch 'em crawl! Family fun! DG